

Randy Beutler Named President of SWOSU

01.22.2010

Southwestern Oklahoma State University graduate Randy Beutler of Elk City has been named president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford and Sayre.

Beutler, who has been serving as vice president for public policy and leadership development at SWOSU, will start as president on February 1.

"The institution of SWOSU and the people surrounding the university mean a lot to me," Beutler said. "I'm excited about this opportunity. There will be a lot of hard work and I'm ready for the challenge."

The announcement came at the meeting of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Regents being held January 22 in Ada.

"Randy Beutler is a proven leader with a passion for education who represents the values and ideals of western Oklahoma," said Jan Gordon, chair of the RUSO Regents. "He has the vision, the ability and the commitment to lead SWOSU forward."

Beutler, who heads up the successful President's Leadership Class program at SWOSU, was born and raised on a ranch north of Elk City.

He graduated from Canute High School in 1979. Beutler earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree from SWOSU in 1983, graduating Cum Laude with a social science major/minor. He completed his Master of Education degree at SWOSU in 2003.

Beutler taught social science at Washita Heights Public Schools and Weatherford High School after graduating from SWOSU. He was named Weatherford Public Schools "Teacher of the Year" in both 1987 and 1990.

In 1992, Beutler decided to run for the District 60 seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He was reelected three times without opposition and served until 2000. Beutler represented the counties of Roger Mills, Beckham, Greer and Harmon. He eventually became the Majority Whip of the House and was on the leadership team of both Speakers Glen Johnson and Loyd Benson.

In 2003, Beutler was appointed by Governor Brad Henry as his legislative liaison to the Oklahoma House of Representatives. In this capacity, he worked closely with all members of the Legislature. He was promoted to director of legislative relations, which elevated him to a senior staff member of Governor Henry's administration. In addition to his duties with Governor Henry, Beutler served as an adjunct professor of history at SWOSU.

When SWOSU President John Hays hired Beutler to work at the university in 2006, he assisted President Hays with external affairs, legislative matters, grant development and development of external funds. He assisted in the strategic direction of the university and also developed the President's Leadership Class.

Beutler serves on the Quartz Mountain Arts & Conference Center Board of Directors and Oklahoma Higher Education Chancellor Glen Johnson's Legislative Advisory Network. He is a member of the Weatherford Kiwanis Club and has been active in the Elk City Kiwanis Club. He has served on the Oklahoma Academy of State Goals Board of Directors and the Elk City Old Town Museum Board of Directors.

Beutler becomes the 17th president of SWOSU, which was founded in 1901.

New SWOSU President Randy Beutler (left) is pictured with former SWOSU presidents Joe Anna Hibler and John Hays at the Regional University System of Oklahoma meeting in Ada where Beutler was named as SWOSU's 17th president.